

My name is Suyane Oliveira and I'm a New Haven County Resident. I grew up in Fairfield County and I am an immigrant. I stand in support of HB 6616: "An Act Concerning Expansion Of Husky Health Benefits To Those Ineligible Due To Immigration Status". Expanding Husky health to undocumented folks would only further necessary progress in communities and Connecticut as a whole.

I remember the first time my mom had to deny treatment because we couldn't afford the medication. We couldn't even afford the exams. Before then, my parents would only go to doctors when it was absolutely necessary because my sister and I needed yearly check-ups as children. She complains of pain, she's referred to a specialist and the story always stops there. Without an affordable healthcare plan, my mom would have to choose between rent and an exam. My mom now has health issues that could have been prevented if she had been able to seek out the medical care she needed.

My parents have sacrificed their health to be able to afford my checkups growing up. Hundreds of undocumented people have suffered the same as my family. We can make it easier on these folks by passing this bill. We can invest in preventative care and save lives.

I'm privileged enough to be a DACA recipient with access to HUSKY but the rest of my family is not as privileged. The thousands of families fighting for their basic human right to affordable access to healthcare are not as fortunate as I. Which is why I'm here sharing my story in support of HB 6616.

Thank you for your time.